

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide necessary passenger facilities along with shaded platforms at Kayamkulam station in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Passenger Amenities commensurate with traffic handled at Kayamkulam station are being provided as part of Kayamkulam - Quilon doubling work, now in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

Medical Facilities in A & N Islands

4100. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have any full fledged general hospital with all modern medical facilities and specialists in various branches of medicine and surgery;

(b) if so, whether for want of specialists in several fields, many patients are either referred to Madras or Calcutta hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details of fields where specialists are not available there and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Nilambur - Feroke Line

4101. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to conduct preliminary survey to construct Nilambur-Feroke railway line via Manjeri; and

(b) if so, when the survey is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has already been started.

[Translation]

Unemployed Blind Scholars

4102. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of blind students having M. Phil and Ph.D. degree are unemployed;

(b) whether the Government propose to reserve some posts exclusively for these highly educated blinds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the other steps taken by the Government to assist such persons?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d). At present reservation of 1% is available to the visually handicapped persons in respect of direct recruitment to